

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS

There will be commercial salmon fishing openings throughout Norton Sound beginning Tuesday, July 23. Permit holders in Norton Sound Subdistricts 1–6 will be limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Norton Sound Subdistrict 2, the Golovin Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday July 23 to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 24.

Subdistrict 3, the Elim Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 24 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 25. However, for this opening, commercial fishing is only being allowed from the mouth of Carson Creek eastward to the mouth of Iron Creek.

Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 64 hours from 8:00 a.m. Thursday, July 25 to midnight Saturday evening, July 27.

Subdistrict 5, the Shaktoolik Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 72 hours from 12 noon Tuesday, July 23 to 12 noon Friday, July 26.

Subdistrict 6, the Unalakleet Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 72 hours from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 23 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 26.

Also, the eastern half of the Nome Subdistrict from the Cape Nome jetty eastward to Topkok Head reopens to commercial salmon fishing from 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 23 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 24.

Thus far, the commercial catch of chum salmon in Norton Sound is over 85,000 chum salmon by approximately 70 active permit holders. The season total catch is projected to range between 95,000 and 110,000 chum salmon. With the exception of the Kwiniuk River, all chum salmon escapement goals have been achieved or are projected to be met this season.

Next week, the department will switch to coho salmon management. Coho salmon are showing in most areas of Norton Sound in commercial catches and at escapement projects. The department will use index openings during the first week of August to gauge early run strength. The preseason harvest outlook for coho salmon in Norton Sound is 30,000–60,000 fish.